

*The Rare and Endangered Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara County.* By T. CORELLI and Z. CHANDIK. 1995. Monocot Press, Half Moon Bay, CA. 139 pp

Until now there has never been a book with photographs or other illustrations of rare and endangered plants listed by county in California. Toni Corelli and Zoe Chandik have produced such a book. It will be useful not only to the interested public but also to environmental consultants, city and county planners, and public land managers. The species included are those which may enjoy some level of protection by the federal and state governments, i.e., special-status species.

Most of the information has been obtained from the CNPS's *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Species*, fifth edition (Skinner and Pavlik 1994). In addition, the authors have included a description of each species, with distinguishing characteristics underlined for quick reference, as well as lists of associated species and local habitat notes. Taxa are arranged alphabetically, starting at the family level. The book includes a general index by scientific name, common name, and family as well as a table arranged by scientific name with a description of the habitat of each species. A bibliography is also included.

One hundred and six species, constituting approximately 10% of the total number of species listed in *The Inventory*, are discussed in the book. Species are illustrated by either a drawing, a picture of herbarium specimens, or by photographs usually showing a close-up of the flower and the habitat. Unfortunately, the illustrations are of uneven quality. In many instances, the pictures poorly depict the plant and/or the habitat. Some pictures appear superfluous in that there is little difference between the close-up and the habitat shot for a specific species. Some species, including San Joaquin spearscale (*Atriplex joaquiniana*), a relatively common plant, are illustrated with only a drawing and three species are not illustrated at all. The inconsistency in illustration quality is somewhat of a disappointment.

This first publication in California, using a format that includes photographs of rare and endangered plants, not only acquaints the public with the local flora, but is also a visual tool for identifying sensitive plant species by those who document the occurrence and location of these species. Books like *The Rare and Endangered Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara County* (sic) for other counties in California would be welcome supplements to state and local manuals.

—EVA G. BUXTON, LSA Associates, Inc., Point Richmond, CA 94801.